

JULY 1993

OPEN ARMS

VOLUME 5

NUMBER 7

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER
.....

A TEAM OF OUR OWN



WIMMIN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BLOOMINGTON

There is so much offered at the Festival that any one person can only sample a fraction. Here are the reactions of some of the local womyn who attended.

The speakers and workshops were most impressive to me this year. June Jordan's essay on the Anita Hill situation, "Can I Get A Witness?" was especially potent as was the workshop on recognizing white privilege. Suzanne Westenhoefer, an out lesbian comedian who usually plays to straight audiences, was a hoot on the main stage as was Sarah Citron, a new lesbian comic who performed on the showcase stage. The Thursday night sampler of new performers was great, as usual. Jamie Anderson and Suede were good on main stage but it was more fun to see them in the intimate setting at the Century Center. Sue Fink was wonderful as MC on the main stage and the sign-language interpreters were a delight.

So many workshops, so many wonderful, beautiful things to look at and to buy. And of course, the music. Well, Sue Fink, the concert emcee, had a real treat for the festie goers this year. On Friday night's stage, Sue said that she didn't really consider the event a festival as much as a camp experience. She said she wrote a camp song which she wanted us all to learn and she'd teach us the first verse on Friday and we'd have to wait until Saturday night for the second verse.



Friday night's verse goes something like this:

We go to Camp Nowanaweenee

No itsy, bitsy, teeny weenee

We go to Camp Nowanaweenee

Where the girls don't need no boys.



Saturday night's verse was:

There is no Harry, Dick, or Jimbo

And all the girls do the Lezzie Limbo

We go to Camp Nowanaweenee

Where the girls see eye to thigh.

Well, I thought it was fun and Sue was great!



Rain, rain, go away. Whistle Stop wants to go out and play. Finally, after 2 rain cancellations, we got to play. We played Sandy's...that team with the reputation of having the rudest, loudest, most obnoxious coaches ever. I must say, they toned down their verbal abuse considerably. Maybe that was due to a great letter written up by Patti or perhaps because Sandy's was winning.

Here's what stood out for me: Marcia hit that ball between 1st and 2nd and got on 1st while her ball rolled between the legs of 1st baseher, causing 1st baseher to turn and run for Marcia's ball. Marcia later made it around and brought home her score. Smoooth!

Anything but smooth...Kim made a running dive for a fly and caught it. No one knows how she did it. No one could believe it could be done and all waited for Kim to rise from the dust to reveal her prize. Sure enough, it was there. Sandy's gasped, we yelled for joy, and the game went on. Courageous Kim -spectacular! Now about Sandy's 3rd baseher...The Wall. Julie took on The Wall and held her own. Walls can be moved.

Speaking of moved, if you weren't at the game to "catch" Dee Dee's action, I'm sorry. Our Dee did a powerful job of catching.

Well these have been a few of my highlighted recollections. There was so much more fine playing throughout the game. Our coach, Sheree, has taken a 1st year team and worked us into one that a C league player was overheard asking, "Is Whistle Stop Cafe a B league team?" Keep on keep'n on!

-Gloria-

2 PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTARILY
CAME OUT IN A VERY PUBLIC WAY,
AND WHERE THEY DID IT

MERLE MILLER, writer

In an essay for the New York Times Magazine.

KAREN BURSTEIN, New York municipal judge
By introducing her life-partner at
her swearing-in ceremony as
a new judge.

from Lavender List

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

Due to softball, Video Night has been cancelled until September.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Tues. 7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

3RD SATURDAY OUT

Damon's (GREAT RIBSI)

52855 US 31, South Bend

Just north of Cleveland Road

7 p.m.

Call Lu or Sheree for reservations by July 14 at:

(616)-684-6365

GAME NIGHT

Saturday, July 24th, 5 p.m.,

eat at 6 p.m.

Potluck and Games at Phyllis and Betty's

Call for directions: (219)-294-1875

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.



OPEN ARMS STAFF

Mary (219) 234-5986

Sheree (616) 684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219) 271-0338

Advertising-Maggie: (219) 287-3124

Subscriptions: Kaye or Marcia

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the August *Open Arms* is July 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Mary, Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after July 10th may not be published in the August newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, July 11th, 1993 at Kaye and Marcia's, 6:00 p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.

EVENTS COORDINATORS

3rd Friday Out: Lu & Sheree (616) 684-6365

Wimmin's Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616) 684-4011

Game Night: Sheree (616) 684-6365

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219) 271-0338

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

WIMMIN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULES

Team: Whistle Stop Cafe	Team: All Thumbs
Jul 2 8:00 Pott	Jul 2 7:30&8:30 Boehm
Jul 9 7:30&8:30 Boehm	Jul 9 6:30 Pott
Jul 16 7:00 Boland	Jul 16 8:00 Mem
Jul 23 call CITYLINE 674-0900 (in Niles 235-6178)	
Jul 30 8:00 O'Brien	Jul 30 7:00 Walker
Aug 6 7:00 O'Brien	Aug 6 8:00 Boehm

Team: Squads

Jul 2 6:30 Lincoln	Jul 23 7:30 Normain
Jul 9 7:30 Lincoln	Jul 26 6:30 Lincoln
Jul 16 6:30 Normain	Aug 2 7:30 Lincoln
Jul 19 6:30 Central	Aug 6 8:30 Lincoln

LESBIAN AND GAY AA GROUPS

Sundays: Elkhart General Hospital
Renaissance Unit 2nd Floor 7 p.m.

Mondays: First Unitarian Church
101 E. Northshore South Bend

(1st meeting of the month is an open meeting)

Saturdays: First Unitarian Church
101 E. Northshore South Bend 8 p.m.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.



Place: Milton Township Hall, Niles, MI
Date: July 31, 1993
Time: 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Michigan Time
 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Indiana Time

Admission: \$5.00 at the Door ONLY

(no advance tickets)

Music by

DJ

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Door Prizes**

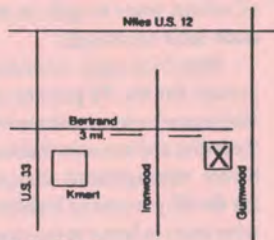
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Event**

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BYOB



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COATS FIRES GAY STAFFER

Glenn O. Hatmaker says he was fired from the staff of Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN) in 1990 because he was gay and told by a senior staffer that the Senator ran a "Christian office" which was not a place for gays. The deputy chief of staff in Coats' office, Mark Souder, denies he ever said such a thing!

--info from the Atlanta Southern Voice--

TOWN MEETING IN KALAMAZOO 7/9 7:30 P.M.

Pandora's Bookstore and Triangle World are sponsoring a town meeting for the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). The HRCF is the largest lesbian/gay political organization in the US and helped stop the Christian right's initiative in Oregon. The town meeting in Kalamazoo is an opportunity for the HRCF to answer questions about the anti-sexual orientation proposal that will be on the November ballot and to raise money to defeat the proposal. Other town meetings will be held in Grand Rapids on July 11th and Traverse City on July 10th. Call (616)-389-5156 for information on these meetings.

JANIS IAN COMES OUT

"Breaking the Silence" is the title of Janis Ian's 12th album. In the songs on the album, she acknowledges that she is a lesbian and hopes the album helps turn her career around.

NEWS NOTES

--During the Achtenberg confirmation hearings (she was confirmed 58-31), Sen. Clairborne Pell, D-R.I., said his daughter is a lesbian.

--Figures from the 1990 census show 157,400 people reported being part of a same-sex couple which is less than 1% of the 91 million households in the US. this was the first US census to collect data on same-sex partners.

--The Lafayette City Council approved a civil rights ordinance on May 3, 1993 by a 5-4 vote. The ordinance was proposed by a council member whose son is gay and knew the son's friend who had been fired from a job for being gay. Unfortunately, the ordinance does not make sexual orientation discrimination a criminal offense with penalties.

--Denver has lost \$36 million in convention revenue since Amendment 2 passed last fall.

--A Kalamazoo organization formed for advancing lesbian, gay and bi-rights, called IMPACT, has proposed a civil rights ordinance which includes sexual orientation. Based on the East Lansing ordinance, the proposal is currently being debated before the Community Relations Board.

--The March issue of *Mademoiselle Magazine* has an article about "baby dykes", "Lesbian Yuppies" and "Womyn, Womom and Wimmin".

--A religious broadcaster from Milwaukee, Vic Eliason, is being sued by Julie Brienza for orchestrating her firing from United Press International for being a lesbian.

--A court in California ruled that the California Dept. of Motor Vehicles must reinstate a lesbian owned business to its list of traffic schools.

--A study at Jewish General Hospital and McGill University of 1000 pregnant wimmin showed there was no medical benefit for episiotomies (deliberate cutting of the birth canal) and may even make recovery harder. In North America, 70% to 80% of wimmin giving birth have episiotomies.--info from **NEWSDAY**--

--A four year European study of heterosexual couples found menopausal wimmin were twice as likely as younger wimmin to contract AIDS through sexual contact. Researchers speculate this may be due to the thinning of the vaginal membrane.

--Wimmin's groups in the Netherlands gathered 6,000 signatures on petitions and prevented adoption of a government proposal to allow "mild forms" of female genital mutilation. The proposal was suppose to discourage more extreme forms of mutilation.

--Princeton University announced that it will stop giving money to the Boy Scouts through United Way because the Scouts discriminate against gays and atheists.

--Shelli Craver, a lesbian, was honored at a White House reception for Tomorrow's Leader Today. Craver, Midwest Coordinator for The Human Rights Campaign Fund, was one of 100 youths honored by Hillary Clinton and Public Allies, a multicultural organization designed by and for young people who want to work on public interests.

Survey outlines methods to improve health care

The following information is excerpted from *The Michigan Lesbian Health Survey*. The survey was commissioned by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR), with funds provided by the Michigan Department of Public Health.

For those interested in lesbian health...it is imperative to reduce the current toll on lesbian lives taken by other health threats. To move in that direction, we developed the following recommendations to enhance lesbian health.

1) Educate health care providers about the needs and concerns of lesbians. Take all educational opportunities to reduce sexism, racism, homophobia, and judgements based on physical size or appearance.

2) Compile, maintain a list of lesbian and lesbian-positive health care practitioners.

3) Support legislative actions which move in the direction of universal access to health care.

4) Lobby for recognition of lesbian couples and families in the design of employment benefit packages.

5) Ensure that lesbians have equal access to medically-approved, AIDS-safe resources for artificial insemination. Remove barriers to lesbian adoption and foster parenting.

6) Work toward enactment of viable power of attorney legislation and other mechanisms which empower lesbians to make and implement decisions about health care.

7) Support efforts to end sexual and physical victimization of women and children, and ensure that victim assistance agencies/agents are sensitive to the needs of victimized lesbians.

8) Disseminate health information to lesbians through existing lesbian networks, organizations, and publications.

9) Implement preventive health programs that address lesbians' health needs:

Smoking cessation classes and other assistance for the 27 percent of lesbians who smoke every day (96 percent of whom want to quit or reduce their smoking);

Nutrition and exercise groups for the 75 percent of lesbians who want to improve their diet and exercise habits; Stress management classes for the 60 percent of lesbians who want to learn to manage stress better;

Self-health groups to teach and encourage regular breast exam and other preventive/alternative health practices.

[Percentages based on health survey of 1,681 lesbians in the state of Michigan.]

10) Apply what has been learned about providing community support and resources to gay men with AIDS to the task of securing similar services for lesbians with serious health problems.

11) Encourage values clarification and exploration of priorities in organizations which serve both lesbians and gay men. Work to reduce sexism and racism in lesbian/gay organizations and coalitions.



IN CONCERT!!!!

ELAINE TOWNSEND
singer, song-writer, guitarist

July 22nd
Thursday, 7:00 PM
Century Center, South Bend, IN
Tickets: \$9 Advance, \$10 at door
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She's opened for the Indigo Girls and k.d. lang and she presents a dazzling array of styles from Samba to Bluegrass, Reggae to Rock. Come hear her Heartbreaker Blues. Call 287-3124 or 287-5071 for tickets and/or more details
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maggie's mumblings

Bloomington, Pride, and Newsweek...

Isn't it just so trendy to be a lesbian?

A friend of mine has actually used that phrase. She said she just hates that lesbianism is now getting trendy and that everyone will want to become one. Judging by recent events, it's probably true.

Let's see...where do I begin. It's really been an eventful couple of weeks. I guess I'd have to start with Bloomington. Patricia Ireland, Angela Davis, Alix Dobkin, Jamie Anderson, Sawagi Taiko, Linda Tillery, Teresa Trull, Suzanne Westenhofer, and Suede. It was great to work as performer friends for Maile and Marina, the country cuties, Alix, and Suede. Some fantasies are just sooo much fun, even if you are working. The only problem is that I would have liked to have spent more time with them, but you know the old phrase, time flies, etc.

So, how many of you attended the Michiana pride celebration? Not bunches, 'cause I didn't see you there. Another year without media to protect those of us who may feel threatened by that prospect, but less than a great turnout. But, despite the heat and that yuck, there was good entertainment, and informative speakers including our own Mary B. And I learned a few things, and picked up some info courtesy of P-FLAG to send to mom now that I've come out to her. (Even if it wasn't a good idea to do it long distance over the phone.) It's still amazes me, even though I've only lived in SB for 13 years, that this event can take place, and I salute the organizers, particularly Marcia, for having the vision to start a pride event in such a conservative town.

Okay, did you see the cover of Newsweek? The headline "LESBIANS". And on the cover, two women who could pass as straight, even to those of us with our lesbian radar on. I guess I appreciate that, even though one could argue both ways, that they chose not to put what the het world would consider the most outlandish looking dykes they could find. Perhaps some people (like my mom) will actually be enlightened and educated to some degree, if only to open their minds to being educated.

And speaking of being enlightened, that hatemonger in the dark, my favorite Jerry Falwell (should be Falsick) is going hot and heavy with his hate message for all those far wrong religious followers. Now at the pride celebration, someone said to me, "Why do you put yourself through that?" And it was the same woman who said she listens to Rush Limbaugh once in a while just to see what the enemy is saying. We were trying to figure out just

what Jerry thinks our hidden agenda really is. Acceptance? Tolerance? Equal Rights? The freedoms guaranteed by the constitution? Or maybe that 10 percent of the population will take over the whole world? Lofty thinking Jerry, but maybe you were just so scared by what your "hidden" cameras at the march on Washington may have found. It probably showed what it would be like for lesbians and gays to be able to openly express affection, and not be afraid to be themselves. And having all those queers actually be the majority probably just scared the bejeesus out of him.

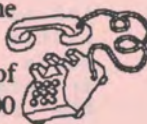
Now, while I put myself through the agony of listening to the garbage spew forth, he flashed an 800 number on the screen. This number is: 1-800-643-2555. It seems that by sending a "small" (actually \$35 seems pretty sizable to me) contribution, you can get a copy of the Falwell organization's video which describes (a little horror music here please) the Lesbian and Gay Hidden Agenda, (OH MY!!!) and a special view of Roberta Achtenburg's behavior at Gay Pride (she kissed another woman!!!!) Jerry thinks he can get his people to get President Clinton to fire her. Oh, puhlease. Why are he and Jesse Helms sooo threatened? Now, if I were in a mischievous mood, I might call that number from a pay phone, (so they wouldn't get my number) and spend a little time talking on it and giving them some of my views. Seems that if I and a few hundred of my acquaintances did the same thing, we'd cause old Jerry a bit of money, wouldn't we? Just a thought.

Wow, it's already summer, softball is well underway, and pride month is over. The older I get, the quicker time seems to pass, and the more important it becomes to me to be true to myself, and screw what the rest of the world thinks. This is a long process, but worth the pain and worth the joy. I think I'll make a phone call. (heh heh!)

KENTUCKY OVERTURNS SODOMY LAW

The Supreme Court of Kentucky ruled the state's sodomy law unconstitutional under the privacy and equal protection laws of the Kentucky constitution. This is the first state supreme court to reject the criminal sodomy laws since the US Supreme Court's 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

--info from Civil Liberties, Winter 1992-93--





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PRIDE DAY

Pride Day was an energizing, community building experience. Highlights for me were Katherine Dick's keynote on courage, Marcia's MCing, the performances of Wilma Harder and Loretta Vinson (unfortunately I wasn't able to stay to hear all the entertainers and speakers), the sign language interpreters, the great display of books on lesbians and gays from the St. Joseph Public Library, the book tables from Journey Books in Elkhart and The Little Professor in South Bend, seeing Glenn Woods create pottery and seeing so many friends and family. Thanks, thanks, thanks to the Pride Day organizers who worked so hard all year putting the event together.

- Mary

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Ticket Purchases

The sliding scale for advance ticket purchases allows for womyn of different economic abilities to pay within a range. We leave this as your decision, and we ask womyn who can, to pay the higher rate to accommodate womyn who cannot.

	Advance by 7/17	At Gate	Earliest Admittance
6 Day: Mon/Tues-Sun	\$200-230	\$225	Mon 2-11pm Tues 7 am
5 Day: Wed-Sun	\$175-205	\$200	Tues 12 Midnight
4 Day: Thu-Sun	\$150-180	\$175	Wed 12 Midnight
3 Day: Fri-Sun	\$125-155	\$150	Thu 12 Midnight
2 Day: Sat-Sun	\$ 75-105	\$100	Fri 12 Midnight
1 Day: Sunday	\$ 35- 55	\$ 50	Sat 12 Midnight

Money orders, Visa, MasterCard, bank or traveler checks accepted. No personal checks.

The Festival has a limited number of ticket subsidies to extend to womyn who are of economic disadvantage. We ask that only womyn who truly are excluded from the above price range apply. All requests for applications must be postmarked by June 12th. No reductions will be made at the gate. Womyn over 65 or 18 & under who are on fixed income or no income are admitted free. Price includes all activities, concerts, dances, food, workshops, films, camping, outdoor showers and portable toilets. MWMMF is a gathering of mothers and daughters for all womyn born womyn.

Important Dates and Deadlines

August 10 - 15	Festival Week
June 12 Postmark:	Completed Workshops for Program*
	Request Reduced Rate Application
	Program Advertising*
July 8 Postmark:	Ticket Refund Request
	Completed DART RV Permit Request
July 17 Postmark:	Advance Ticket Purchase
	Airport Shuttle Reservation*
July 26 Postmark:	Completed DART Registration*
	Completed Childcare Reservation*



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Call Susan in Saugatuck at (616) 857-2586.



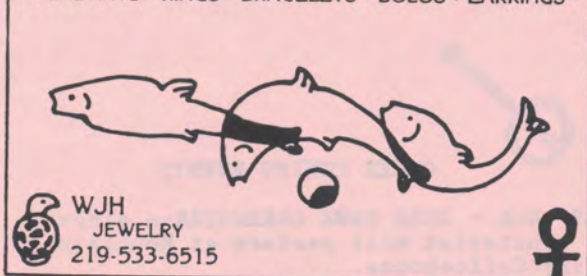
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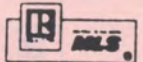
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JULY

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

AA Elkhart 7 p.m. every Sunday				1	2	3 AA South Bend 8 p.m.
4 Independence Day	5 AA South Bend 7 p.m.	6 Support Group 7 p.m.	7 NOW Mtg YWCA 7:30 p.m.	8	9	10 Submissions to Open Arms due
11 Open Arms Mtg 6 p.m.	12	13	14 Reservations due for 3rd Sat. Out	15	16	17 3rd Saturday Out
18	19	20	21	22 	23	24 Game Night 5 p.m. 1897: Amelia Earhart, first woman aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
25 PFLAG Mtg., 2-4 p.m.	26 ↓	27 ↓	28	29	30	31 Dance Niles, 8-Mid.



ALL TIMES ARE INDIANA TIMES

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26" RCA ColorTrak
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HOME/CAR REPAIR WORKSHOPS

The Women's Research and Development Center of Cincinnati is offering weekend courses in home and car maintenance/repair. The home repair workshops include toilet, faucet, electrical, plaster/drywall repair and carpentry and are offered July 9,10,11

or Aug. 6,7,8. The car maintenance workshops include preventive maintenance, tire changes and jump starts, and fuses, bulbs and maintenance logs. These will be offered July 17th and August 14th. Class size is limited to 12. Call 513-541-0541 for information on costs and scholarships.

MASSAGE WORKSHOP

Presented by Sarah Dwyer, Occupational Therapist with 20 years experience; Massage Therapist, and Coordinator of Body Works for the National Women's Music Festival.

July 17, 9 to 5 and July, 18 9 to 3.

Learn massage for relaxation, basic strokes, who should/should not receive massage, techniques specific to you and your partner.

Limited to first 4 couples registering. Cost \$60 per couple. To register call 271-0338 for mailing instructions or more information. Deadline 7/5/93.



OTHER COMING EVENTS

JULY 10th - JESS HAWK OAKENSTAR-a singer/guitarist will perform at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse.

JULY 11th - THE SUMMER SALON-a gathering of creative women to share their arts, writing and music. On womyn's wooded land outside Three Rivers. Call Kim Clark (616)279-6134 for more info.

JULY 17th - ALIX DOBKIN-one of the foremothers lesbian-feminist music will be at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse with her comments on the '90s.

AUG. 10-15 -MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL. For more info call (616) 757-4766 or write WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458.

1st Wednesday - 7:30 p.m. NOW meeting, South Bend YWCA, 822 N. Lafayette

4th Sunday - P-FLAG Meeting 2-4 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Rd., South Bend.